



# SOCIEDAD HONORARIA HISPÁNICA

## BERTIE GREEN TRAVEL AWARD

### FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS



## INFORMATION FOR 2025-2026

Each year eighteen or more travel awards are given to high school juniors who are members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH). The students travel to a country or region of the Spanish-speaking world to explore its cultural highlights and be immersed in the language. The departure date for the trip is generally scheduled for July. All trips are chaperoned by SHH sponsors who have been selected based on a thorough interview process including a background check.

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## TRAVEL DESTINATION AND SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Ecuador is the travel destination for the 2026 Bertie Green Travel Award. The SHH will award 18 students with the trip, scheduled for July 20-28, 2026. The group will meet at the Miami International Airport (MIA). Applicants should ensure they are available to begin travel July 19 and return July 29, if needed.

## TRAVEL AWARD DESCRIPTION

Each Bertie Green Travel Award includes the following:

- guided excursions in Ecuador
- lodging
- three meals per day while in Ecuador
- travel insurance during the trip
- reimbursement for travel, up to \$400, for round-trip transportation from student's home to Miami International (MIA) airport
- round trip flights from Miami airport to Ecuador
- ground transportation in Ecuador
- **NOTE:** The following items are not included in the Award and must be covered by the student and/or parents, guardian: airfare fees above the \$400 allowance, snacks, additional travel insurance (*required beginning 2026*), souvenirs, and personal items.
- The trip will include a considerable amount of walking. Please view the travel company's special provisions/meals and allergies policies [here](#).

## DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** Tuesday, December 9, 2025
- **Notification of winners and alternates:** February 15, 2026

## ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be high school juniors, SHH members, and currently enrolled in a Spanish or Portuguese language class.
- The SHH sponsor's AATSP membership must be valid through **2026**.
- Only ONE student per chapter may apply for the SHH junior award.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Student winners must commit to the trip by February 20, 2026. If the student is applying for other awards and will not know the result before February 15, they should not apply for this trip, too.
- If a student winner cannot travel during the specified time, the trip will be forfeited, and an alternate winner will be selected.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF WINNERS

- For the 2026 Ecuador trip, students and families must provide their own transportation to and from the Miami International Airport (MIA). Winners will be given a window of time to plan arrival and departure so that a representative of the SHH can accompany the students at the airport. Students must submit their travel information to the 2026 Travel Coordinator. After the trip, students will submit a trip reflection and then receive a reimbursement of up to \$400.
- Student award recipients and their parents or guardians must agree to pay for the following items: additional baggage fees not included in the travel package, meals within the airports, souvenirs, personal items.
- Award recipients must purchase a travel protection plan upgrade from ACIS. Plans for 2026 are either \$360 or \$495. Payments must be made by March 1, 2026 to secure the student's spot on the trip. If a student decides he or she is unable to travel after committing, families may be responsible for cancellation or change fees the SHH/AATSP is unable to recover.
- After returning from the trip, winners will be required to send to the SHH Director a reflection written in Spanish or Portuguese that summarizes the travel experience. The reflection may be shared on the SHH website or in *Albricias*, the SHH literary magazine.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

- In order for the student to be considered eligible, all the items below must be submitted via the online application.
- If you have any issues with the form, review [these troubleshooting tips](#).
- The student's name and chapter name must appear within each file submitted.
- There is not a required naming structure for the files.

**1. Application Form** The first portion of the Google Form must be completed by the sponsor. We recommend that sponsors and students complete the form together.

### 2. Signature Forms

The completed signature forms with original signatures must be scanned and then uploaded onto the Google Form. Since this is a commitment to travel if selected, these pages must be hand signed by the student, sponsor, and parents/guardians.

**3. A standard video clip** (5 minutes maximum) in Spanish.

**Student instructions:** Discuss with your teacher or chapter sponsor at least five of the following topics in detail:

- yourself
- your Spanish language experiences including motivation for taking Spanish and participating in the SHH
- your participation in and service to your SHH chapter
- an aspect of Ecuadorian culture that intrigues you
- how previous travel abroad opportunities or other experiences have changed your view of the world
- what you think will be the greatest challenge of this group travel experience
- how you feel the trip will impact your future academic endeavors
- why you feel the committee should award you the trip since there are many qualified applicants

### 4. One original essay in Spanish/Portuguese

- Student instructions: In no more than 500 words, write an essay on one of the following topics:
  - Identify an aspect of the culture of Ecuador and tell why you would investigate it if you had an opportunity to visit the country.
  - Identify one Ecuadorian personality (living or deceased) with whom you would like to visit and tell what you would like to discuss and why.

### 5. A copy of the students' official school transcript and academic work in progress.

- If a current transcript does not include academic work in progress, please include a report card or other official documentation. Please ensure any additional documents are dated and include the student's name within the document. If a school will not release an official transcript to the student or sponsor, the student may request an unofficial transcript that includes an explanation of the grading scale or system. Scan and upload the file(s).

## 6. A list of extra-curricular activities.

- Student instructions: Explain honors received, organizations to which you belong, and offices held. Give special attention to your activities with your SHH Chapter, if applicable. Explain your level of participation in each activity. Be sure your name and SHH chapter name is within the file (not only in the file name).

## 7. A signed letter of recommendation from teacher

- The letter should be from your current Spanish or Portuguese teacher or SHH sponsor who should comment on your proficiency in the language and your motivation toward your Spanish studies. The letter should be on official school letterhead. Scan and upload the letter.

## 8. A signed letter of recommendation from adult

- The signed letter of recommendation should be from an adult outside of your family who knows you well enough to comment on your ability to get along with others and adapt to unforeseen circumstances. The letter should be on official letterhead or hand signed. Scan and upload the letter.



### Note:

The essay should be the original work of the student. Sponsors should verify the authenticity and originality of the student's work, and that it is consistent with the work they produce in class. Essays may be subject to an Artificial Intelligence detection tool. Plagiarism will disqualify the applicant. Please double-space and ensure the student's name and chapter name are on the document itself (not only in the file name).

## Video Submission Requirements

- The video must be uploaded to YouTube with permission for anyone with the link to view.
- Double-check that your link works on a different computer or device. Ensure that the volume is at an appropriate level, so the judges do not have to strain to listen. Include the link to the YouTube video on the designated line of the Google Form. Please double-check the link to ensure it works on other devices and with other accounts.

### In order to qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- Speech should be spontaneous and conversational in tone.
- The teacher should ask questions, but the student should be the dominant speaker.
- Both the student and the teacher should be visible in the recording.
- Judges prefer that both the student and teacher are unmasked.
- The video must be non-stop.
- The video must be at least three minutes in length and must not exceed five minutes. Judges will view only the first five minutes of any video submitted.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Applicant's proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese
- Applicant's special contribution to and for the SHH and the community
- Recommendation letters that reflect the applicant's ability to adapt to new circumstances and groups and to get along with others
- General academic standing and performance

The scoring rubric is weighted in the following manner

- Video – 30% (20% content; 10% comprehensibility)
- Essay – 30%
- Extra-curricular Activities – 25% with special attention given to SHH experiences
- Reference letters – 10% (5% each)
- Transcript – 5%



The [full scoring rubric](#) is available on the SHH website

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- **The chapter sponsor** is responsible for submitting the complete student application form and support materials.  
**REMINDER:** Each chapter is allowed to send in only one SHH application.
- Each of the following six files must be submitted electronically on the Google Form. [Click here](#) for troubleshooting tips. The YouTube link must be included in the appropriate space on the form. Specific file names are not required as Google will rename each document, but we recommend a description of the file and the student's name in the title.
  - Six files to attach to the Google Form
    1. hand-signed signatures form
    2. essay
    3. transcript, including academic work in progress
    4. list of extracurricular activities
    5. letter from teacher/sponsor
    6. letter of recommendation from an adult outside of family
- Before submitting, the chapter sponsor should verify that the necessary six files have been uploaded.
- By submitting the application, the sponsor verifies that the essay is the original work of the student.
  - The deadline for receipt is **Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 11:59 PM**. All applications will be acknowledged. At the end
  - of the application, you should receive a confirmation message. This will be followed by an e-mail message once your application is reviewed for completion. If you do not receive an e-mail message acknowledging receipt of the application within three business days, contact the AATSP National Office at [SHH@aatsp.org](mailto:SHH@aatsp.org).



# Sponsor Agreement



\*This document must include the sponsor's initials and **hand-signature**.

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_ SHH Region \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [www.aatpsphh.org/statedirectors](http://www.aatpsphh.org/statedirectors) to see your state's region.

Please initial each item to acknowledge your agreement:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member in good standing of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. My membership has been/will be renewed for the 2026 calendar year before it expires on December 31, 2026. I understand that my failure to be a 2026 member invalidates my student's application.

\_\_\_\_\_ This student is a junior and was registered as an inductee in \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I verify that I have reviewed the students' application and that the essay I am submitting on their behalf is the original work of the student and consistent with the work they typically submit in class. (I have verified this with the student's current teacher if that is not me.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I wholeheartedly recommend this student for this award trip as they demonstrate a remarkable openness to new ideas and a willingness to step outside their comfort zone. I am certain they will not only embrace but also proactively seek opportunities to connect with the local community, utilize their Spanish, and gain a deeper understanding of the culture.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have reviewed the student and family responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have communicated with the student's family, and they understand their child is applying to travel alone on an international trip. I have also reinforced the family's obligations if their child chooses to drop out after committing to the trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ To my knowledge, this student is not applying for any other awards or trips that would take place July 19-29, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that if a student from my chapter is chosen for the award and then does not participate and does not repay the cancelation fees, that my school may not be eligible to apply for the SHH junior travel award the following year.

Sponsor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print, sign, scan, and upload this document to the application.**



## Parent Agreement



\*This form must be initialed and **hand-signed** by the applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s).

Student Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize my son/daughter to travel to Ecuador July 20-28, 2026, as an award winner of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica. *Autorizo a mi hijo(a) a viajar a Ecuador el 20-28 de julio, 2026 como ganador del premio de la Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to purchase a round-trip airline ticket to and from the Miami International (MIA) airport (to later be reimbursed up to \$400). *Acepto comprar un boleto aéreo de ida y vuelta desde y hacia el aeropuerto de Miami International (MIA) (para después ser recompensado hasta por \$400).*

\_\_\_\_\_ I will provide my son/daughter with money to cover necessary tips, souvenirs, and personal items. *Acepto proporcionarle a mi hijo/hija dinero para cubrir las propinas necesarias, recuerdos y artículos personales.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the trip will include a considerable amount of walking and accommodations in other countries may not be the same as ADA accommodations in the United States. *Entiendo que el viaje incluirá una cantidad considerable de caminatas y que los alojamientos en otros países pueden no ser los mismos que los alojamientos de la ADA en los Estados Unidos.*

\_\_\_\_\_ While the students will be adequately supervised once they arrive at MIA airport, I understand that my son/daughter may need to travel alone from his/her home airport to the MIA airport, where he/she will be greeted by SHH chaperones at baggage claim. *Si bien los estudiantes estarán adecuadamente supervisados una vez que lleguen al aeropuerto*

*de MIA, entiendo que mi hijo/hija deberá viajar solo desde su aeropuerto de origen hasta el aeropuerto de MIA, donde será recibido por los chaperones de SHH en el área de reclamo de equipaje.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this is a student trip, chaperoned by representatives of the SHH/AATSP who have passed background checks. Parents are not allowed to travel on the student award trip. *Entiendo que este es un viaje de estudiantes, acompañado por representantes de SHH/AATSP que han pasado por la verificación de sus antecedentes personales. Los padres no pueden viajar en el viaje de premio de estudiantes.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if my son/daughter is selected as a winner and accepts the trip, I must purchase travel insurance, and I am responsible for any fees that may be incurred if he/she cancels the trip. *Entiendo que si mi hijo(a) es seleccionado como ganador y acepta el viaje, debo comprar seguro de viaje y soy responsable de cualquier cargo en el que pueda incurrir si cancela.*

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print, sign, scan, and upload this document to the application.**



# Student Agreement



\*This document must include the student's initials and **hand-signature**.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ SHH Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Student's personal email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please do not provide a school address since emails will come from several outside sources.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I have discussed this trip with my parents/guardians and SHH sponsor. They all agree that I am a good candidate for this trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I am awarded this trip, I realize that my decision must be final by February 20, 2026. I am not applying for any programs that would take place July 19-29, 2026 with notification dates past February 15.\* *(You should not accept this award if there is a possibility of winning another award that you prefer after February 15.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ I realize that to accept the trip, I/my parents must pay for a travel protection plan (\$360-\$490) by March 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree to fully immerse myself in the Spanish language and Ecuadorian culture. I am excited to challenge myself to speak Spanish at every opportunity with chaperones, guides, locals, and other award winners to deepen my cultural understanding.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I choose to withdraw from the trip after enrolling, I understand that my family is responsible for any fees incurred with the withdrawal.

\_\_\_\_\_ By signing below, I acknowledge that the essay and video I am submitting is **my own original work**. I understand that my work may be subject to an Artificial Intelligence detection tool.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Dates for alternates may vary if selected after February 15.

**Please print, sign, scan, and upload this document to the application.**